

**Legislative Testimony**  
**Appropriations Committee**  
**Governor's Bill No. 7027 – An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium**  
**Ending June Thirtieth 2019, and Making Appropriations Therefor**  
**Thursday, February 23, 2017**

Dear Senator Formica, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Dr. Bethaney Brenner. I am a family dentist in Burlington and have been in practice since 1980. I have been President of the Bristol Dental Society for the last 18 years and have been a mentor and advocate for dental staff and dentists. I am here to oppose the Governor's proposal to repeal mandated reporting, eliminate the professional assistance account and move the funds to the general fund.

I have personal experience with seeing a fellow practitioner having issues with drug addiction. At that time, the only help was by the family having an intervention and struggling to get help from the Dept. of Public Health who was woefully unable to provide much guidance or assistance to his family. At that time, these individuals were shamed in the public eye, and maybe rightfully so, but without the benefit of treatment first. Some individuals also suffer from other issues like chronic pain, sleep disorders and mental illness.

This is **WHY HAVEN** was created. The passage of the law in 2007 by the CT Gen. Stat. Sec. 19a-12a provided a confidential treatment program. Since, 2007, *HAVEN* has supported more than 1000 professionals. And despite the value that *HAVEN* provides, it is struggling to meet the demand with inadequate staffing and resources. I have not heard any fellow healthcare practitioner complain that the \$5 increase in our already exorbitant license fee (we are the highest in the country) should not go to support *HAVEN*. This money was to pass through the Dept. of Public Health and go to *HAVEN*.

So despite collecting over \$800,000, the powers to be in the Dept. of Public Health have decided not to forward these funds. I believe this to be immoral and possibly illegal. Even the Attorney General Jepsen asked the Dept. to release these funds. He believes we should follow the law. I think you should look into this immediately, release these funds to *HAVEN* and find out who is responsible for this outrageous action.

The Governor's proposal also eliminates mandated reporting but wants to keep the \$5 increase and put that in the general fund. How unfair! You leave the public at the mercy of impaired professionals with no ability for those of us with knowledge to report them. What kind of Governor does this!

I strongly urge you to help *HAVEN*, release the funds that the law provided for them, and pursue action against the ones that have decided that they should withhold these monies.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethaney B. Brenner, DMD  
8 Milford St.  
Burlington, CT 06013  
860-673-7155